

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/612,361 filed on July 2, 2003. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christie US Patent No. 5,881,960, (hereafter "Christie"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 sets forth "a tape cartridge, wherein the probe engages an opening in the center of a hub in the cartridge as the cartridge is inserted in the tape drive." In contrast, the hub (128) in Christie includes a concavity (130), not an opening. Further, using an opening instead of the concavity in the Christie device would defeat the objects of reducing vibration of the cartridge to obtain better control of the tape position relative to the magnetic head. This is because the centering spindle (162) would not engage the concavity, and a force would therefore not be applied to both ends of the hub. (Christie, Col. 2, lines 55-60, Col. 3 lines 1-31, Col. 5 lines 23-31). Claim 1 is thus distinguishable from Christie for at least these reasons.

Independent Claim 11 sets forth "mounting the alignment probe in the tape drive so that the alignment probe engages the opening in the cartridge". Independent Claim 16 sets forth "the alignment probe engages an opening in the hub". Independent Claim 21 sets forth "the alignment probe engages an opening in the cartridge". Claims 11, 16, and 21 are therefore believed to be allowable over Christie for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 presented hereinabove.

Claims 2-10 depend from Claim 1, Claims 12-15 depend from Claim 11, Claims 17-20 depend from Claim 16, and Claims 22-24 depend from Claim 21, respectively, and include features that further distinguish them from the cited reference.

Allowance of Claims 1-24 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes Claims 1-24 are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the
USPTO Central Number at (703) 872-9506 on the date shown below.

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September 30, 2004
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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